

P24194.A17

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3733

Appln. No: 10/659,297

Examiner: Pedro PHILOGENE

Filed: September 11, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3563

For: ROD CONNECTOR

**STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Interview Summary issued March 19, 2008, setting a one month period for filing a statement of the substance of the interview to expire on April 19, 2008, Applicants submit the following remarks.

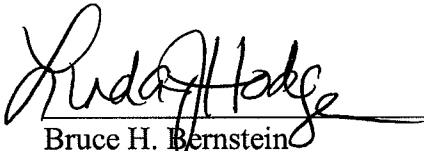
Examiner Pedro Philogene and Applicants' attorney, Linda J. Hodge, conducted a telephone interview on March 7, 2008 to discuss the Final Official Action dated November 28, 2007. During the interview, the claims were discussed and compared to the prior art applied by the Examiner in the rejection, *i.e.*, BURGESS et al. and ALTARAC et al. In particular, Applicants' attorney pointed out that there is nothing in the prior art from which to conclude that it would have been obvious to modify the BURGESS et al. device to include a flanged portion, as recited in claims 6 and 11.

P24194.A17

However, the Examiner has maintained his position regarding the rejection. No agreement was reached.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nobumasa SUZUKI, et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

Linda J. Hodge  
Reg. #47,348

March 24, 2008  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191